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Public Health Reports

Treasury Department, United States Marine-Hospital Service. Published in accordance with act of Congress approved February 15, 1893.

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WASHINGTON, D. C., APRIL 7, 1899.

No. 14.

UNITED STATES.

Louisiana State board of health—Rules and regulations governing vessels engaged in the tropical fruit trade, in force for the season of 1899.

All vessels engaged in the tropical fruit trade between Central American, South American, and West Indian ports and New Orleans will be allowed to pass the Mississippi River Quarantine Station without detention longer than is necessary for a thorough inspection by day by the quarantine officers, so long as a properly accredited medical agent of this board certifies that such ports and places are free from contagious or infectious disease, and provided said vessels shall strictly conform to the following conditions :

1. They shall not be allowed to bring to this port bedding or household effects of any kind.

2. After leaving New Orleans, said vessels may take on board passengers during any part of their trip, and bring passengers to this port as herein provided.

Cabin passengers only will be allowed at the discretion of the medical officer. This officer must satisfy himself that the applicant has not been in any infected locality in the past thirty days, and that none of his effects have been exposed to infection, and further such effects shall have been fumigated or disinfected before going on board.

Passengers may be taken on board from one healthy port to another, each of said ports having a medical officer representing this board ; under the same restrictions said passengers may be brought to New Orleans. Personal effects of passengers are restricted to personal wearing apparel, and should as much as possible consist only of clean, recently laundered clothing, and such effects, together with passengers' trunks, bags, valises or baskets, must be fumigated before being brought on board. The medical officer will refuse to permit the bringing of any unusual or unnecessary amount of baggage, it being the purpose of the board of health to facilitate the affairs of commerce by permitting passenger

communication whereby business may be transacted in a safe manner, holding highest the health of the community; and it is insisted that material capable of carrying any possible infection should be limited to the least possible amount. Woolen bags or carpet sacks will be prohibited. Trunks should be of metal, wood, or paper; valises of leather or paper. The medical officer will make a personal inspection of all passengers and of every member of the crew just prior to the departure of the vessel, and give a certificate to the master of the vessel of the condition of such persons examined, marking opposite the name of each person on the list furnished him by the officers of the vessel of every person on board such observations as may seem to him to be advisable concerning the condition of said person's present or previous state of health.

Medical officers will invariably assist masters of vessels in treatment of members of crew or passengers taken sick on board vessels and should make notes of such treatment in writing to be sent to the quarantine officer at home ports.

3. Vessels shall not touch at any infected port or have any communication with any vessel during their voyage except in case of distress.

4. They shall not touch at such ports or stations as are not mentioned in their schedule, which latter shall be communicated to the board of health.

5. They shall be required to make a full disclosure when arriving at quarantine station of all ports and places they have visited on their voyage.

6. They may take on board a crew of laborers after inspection by the medical officer and disinfection of clothing of such crew for such healthy point where they permanently reside and remain, the crew being as nearly as possible composed of the same men. The captain or other officer may go ashore only for the purpose of entering or clearing vessels. Any further communication with shore or natives will be considered a violation of regulations, and vessels in default will be treated accordingly.

7. These vessels shall be cleansed, and, when necessary, disinfected in the city of New Orleans after discharge of cargo.

The expression, "vessels in default will be treated accordingly," occurring in the sixth section of the regulations, has reference to the following

RESOLUTION ADOPTED APRIL 28, 1897, AND CONTINUED IN FORCE.

"Resolved, That hereafter full quarantine restrictions will be imposed on all vessels whose officers willfully attempt deception in regard to any case of sickness, or material capable of carrying infection, or willfully disregard the rules and regulations of the board of health; and such detention will be imposed thereafter on every vessel on which any officer who has previously attempted to practice deception is found in any official capacity."

EDMOND SOUCHON, M. D.,
President.

G. FARRAR PATTON, M. D.,
Secretary.